HF Happenings 804

The SARL Winter QRP Contest on Saturday

The QRP contests are intended to be fun activities to promote QRP operation between radio amateurs. Using homebuilt equipment or operating as a portable/field station and using temporary antennas is encouraged but is not a requirement. The Winter QRP Contest is on the air from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 21 July 2018. The contest is SSB and CW with power output of 5 watts (PEP) output or less. A station may be worked once per band per mode and there are no antenna restrictions. The first hour is limited to the 40-m band only, the remaining two hours the contesters are free to use any HF (non-WARC) band as they see fit.

The exchange is a RS or RST report and your Grid locator. Please consider exchanging realistic RS(T) signal reports and please use the full 6-character grid locator. e.g. KG43EU. You can also give a SOTA and/or ZSFF reference number if you are on a summit or in a nature park. Each QSO counts 1 point. The Prefix/Country multiplier are each South African call area 0 through 9 and each DXCC country. The Station type multiplier is x 1 for Home stations; x 2 for Portable stations; x 3 for ultra-light portable field station and x 3 for Homebrew stations (pictures are imperative).

Logs in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format with a summary sheet and labelled "my call sign QRP Contest," must be submitted by 28 July 2018 by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za. Refer to General Rules 3.6 and 5.1 to 5.6 for detail about logs and summary sheets. A photo(s) of the station operating (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry.

The ZS2 Sprint on Sunday

This is a fun activity to promote contacts between radio amateurs in the Eastern Cape and radio amateurs in Southern African countries and is on the air from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Sunday 22 July 2018. The ZS2 Sprint is a phone and CW contest

July

15 to 20 July 1916 - The Battle of Delville Wood
16 - Closing date Newbie logs
17 - Provincial schools open
19 - Delta Aquariid meteor shower
19 to 22 – Schreiner Karoo Writers Festival, Cradock
21 - **Winter QRP contest;** Pretoria ARC Flea Market
22 - **ZS2 Sprint**
25 - Closing date for August Radio ZS
27 to 29 – Winter Celebration, Hogsback
28 – Namibian Amateur Radio League AGM; Cape Town ARC AGM; Closing date for RaDAR logs; Closing date QRP contest logs
28 and 29 - RSGB Islands on the Air (IOTA) contest
29 - Closing date for ZS2 Sprint logs

August

2 to 5 – Ramsgate Book and Art Festival
3 to 5 – West Coast Craft Exhibition, Velddrif; Slow Food and Wine Festival, Robertson
4 Aug to 2 Sept – Clanwilliam Wild Flower Festival
5 – SARL HF Phone Contest
8 to 15 – YOTA 2018 Summer Camp in South Africa
9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint
12 – International Youth Day
13 - closing date for HF Phone contest logs
16 – closing date YL Sprint logs
18 and 19 – Lowveld Book Festival, White River; The Chocolate Festival, Stellenbosch; International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
19 – SARL HF Digital Contest; World Humanitarian Day
22 - Eid-al-Adha
23 – closing date for articles for the September Radio ZS
24 to 25 - Hantam Vleisfees, Calvinia
24 to 26 – Magalies Rocks the Cradle Festival, Magaliesburg
25 - Cape Town ARC Meeting; Pretoria ARC AGM and Flea Market
26 – SARL HF CW Contest
27 – closing date for HF Digital logs

on the 40-metre band with CW activity between 7 000 to 7 040 kHz and phone activity between 7 063 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz. The exchange is a RS or RST report and your provincial or country abbreviation.

A QSO with a station in ZS2 is worth 2 points while a QSO with a station in your own or other ZS call areas (excluding ZS2) or Southern African countries are worth 1 point. QSOs with the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society, ZS2PE, or the Border Radio Club, ZS2BRC, are worth 5 points each. Only one contact per station is allowed. For ZS2 stations, a QSO with stations in ZS2 are worth 1 point and QSOs with stations in other ZS call areas or Southern African countries are worth 2 points.

Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "my call sign ZS2 Sprint," must be submitted by 29 July 2018 and sent by e-mail to zs2ec01@gmail.com. A certificate will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the competition, this will only happen if more than five logs are received.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) takes place of the weekend of 18 and 19 August 2018.

The Northern Cape
The Port Nolloth Lighthouse is the most northern lighthouse on the western side of South Africa and does not have an ILLW number yet. The Hondeklipbaai Lighthouse near the Namaqua Nature Reserve does not have an ILLW number yet.
The Groenriviermond Lighthouse does not have an ILLW number yet.

The Western Cape
The Doringbaai Lighthouse at Doringbaai is ILLW ZA0020.
The Stompneusbaai Lighthouse is not a lighthouse but a Lead Light and is ILLW ZA0025.
The Cape St. Martin Lighthouse on the southern side of St Helena Bay does not have an ILLW number yet.
The Cape Columbine Lighthouse at Paternoster is ILLW ZA0001.
The North Head Lighthouse at Saldanha Bay is ILLW ZA0029 and will be activated by the Bo-Karoo ARC, ZS3VDK (ZSFF-0343).
The South Head Lighthouse at Saldanha Bay is situated in an area is controlled by the SA National Defence Force and is ILLW ZA0031.
The Dassen Lighthouse on Dassen Island (IOTA AF-064) is ILLW ZA0030.
Robben Island Lighthouse (IOTA AF-064) is ILLW ZA0008 and will be activated between 17 and 20 August by ZS9V - Jan, ZS1VDV, Andre, ZS1AN, Johan, ZS1A, Allan ZS1LS, Oleg ZS1OIN and Oleg, ZS1ANF. Robben Island is ZSFF-0322 for World Wide Fauna and Flora.
The Milnerton Lighthouse is ILLW ZA0019.
The Green Point Lighthouse in Green Point, Cape Town is ILLW ZA0006 and will be activated by the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre, ZS1CT. This is their 21st year in the ILLW.
The Slangkop Lighthouse at Kommetjie ILLW ZA0015 and will be activated by the False Bay ARC ZS1FRC.
The Cape Point Lighthouse is ILLW ZA0013 (new lighthouse) ZA0014 (old lighthouse) and will be activated by Gregory, ZS1EZ, Ursula, ZS1UP and Terence, ZR1ACI.
The Roman Rock Lighthouse in False Bay is ILLW ZA0027 and no IOTA number.
The Cape Hangklip Lighthouse near Betty's Bay is ILLW ZA0010 and will be activated by the Cape Radio Group, ZS1CRG with six operators.
The Danger Point Lighthouse near Gansbaai is ILLW ZA0005 and will be activated by the Overberg ARC, ZS1OAR.
The Quoin Point at Buffelljagsbaai does not have an ILLW number yet.
The Cape Agulhas Lighthouse situated at L'Agulhas, is ILLW ZA0011 and will be activated by the Boland ARC with special call sign ZS70BAK – the Club is celebrating its 70th birthday. (ZSFF-0002)
The Cape Infanta Lighthouse is situated in the De Hoop Nature Reserve is ILLW ZA0002. (ZSFF-0098)
The Ystervarkpunt Lighthouse near Gouritsmond is ILLW ZA0009
The Cape St. Blaize Lighthouse at Mossel Bay is ILLW ZA0026.
The Cape Seal Lighthouse in the Robberg Nature Reserve (ZSFF-0232) at Plettenberg Bay does not have an ILLW number yet.

The Eastern Cape
The Seal Point Lighthouse at Cape St. Francis is ILLW ZA0021.

The Cape Recife Lighthouse south of Port Elizabeth is ILLW ZA0022.

The Hill Lighthouse/Donkin Reserve in Port Elizabeth is ILLW ZA0023

The Deal Lighthouse at the Papenkuils River mouth in Port Elizabeth does not have an ILLW number yet.

The Bird Island Lighthouse is situated on Bird Island (IOTA AF-079) does not have an ILLW number yet.

The Great Fish Lighthouse 27 km from Port Alfred on the R72 is ILLW ZA0024.

The Hood Point Lighthouse in East London is ILLW ZA0007.

The Cape Morgan Lighthouse at Morgan's Bay does not have an ILLW number yet.

The M'bashe Point Lighthouse in the Dwesa Nature Reserve (ZSFF-0110) does not have an ILLW number yet.

The Cape Hermes Lighthouse at Port St. Johns does not have an ILLW number yet.

The South Sand Lighthouse at the Mkhambathi Nature Reserve (ZSFF-0263) does not have an ILLW number yet.

KwaZulu-Natal

The North Sand Lighthouse at Port Edward is ILLW ZA0016.

The Port Shepstone Lighthouse at the Umzinkulu is ILLW ZA0012.

The Green Point Lighthouse at Umzinto is ILLW ZA0018 and will be activated by the Highway ARC, ZS5HAM.

The Ifafa Beach Lighthouse does not have an ILLW number yet.

The Cooper Light at Brighton Beach, Durban, is ILLW ZA0004.

The Umhlanga Rocks Lighthouse at Umhlanga Rocks does not have an ILLW number yet.

The Tugela Lighthouse at the mouth of the Tugela River is ILLW ZA0028.

The Durnford Lighthouse just south of Richards Bay does not have an ILLW number yet.

The Richards Bay Lighthouse does not have an ILLW number yet.

The Cape St. Lucia Lighthouse north of Richards Bay is ILLW ZA0003.

The Cape Vidal Lighthouse in the Cape Vidal Forestry Reserve (ZSFF-0081) does not have an ILLW number yet.

The Jesser Point Lighthouse in the Sodwana Bay National (ZSFF-0358) is the most northern light-house on the east coast of South Africa and most northern South African lighthouse and does not have an ILLW number yet.
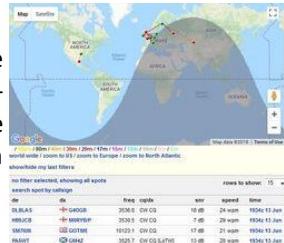
IC-7200 for YOTA 2018

Well-known contesters Jerry, WB9Z, and Val, NV9L, have donated an Icom IC-7200 to the upcoming YOTA (Youngsters on the Air) program in South Africa www.ham-yota.com/category/yota-2018/. The YOTA annual event "brings together young people from various IARU R1 member societies in Africa and Europe for an entire week... Eighty participants aged from 16 to 25, and from over 30 countries have been invited to attend a fun-filled week of Amateur Radio from 8 to 15 August 2018."

An RBN Node on the west coast of Africa

A new Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) node is now operating in Liberia at the station of Richmond Harding, EL2BG www.reversebeacon.net/. The new node was established with funding from the Yasme Foundation (www.yasme.org/), as part of the RBN's effort to fill coverage gaps in its coverage in the developing world, following in the footsteps of VU2PTT and ET3AA.

K3S versus IC-7610

Elecraft has compiled a detailed two-page comparison table between the Elecraft K3S and the Icom IC-7610 www.elecraft.com/K3/K3S_comparison1.pdf. One important advantage of the K3 receiver appears to be strong nearby signal handling on the same band. Among the replies posted to the Elecraft K3 discussion group at Groups.IO https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-K3/message/2953,7 W4TV concludes: "None of the tested direct conversion SDRs (e.g. IC-7610) are capable of 100+ dB 'dynamic range' while simultaneously maintaining a MDS of ~-140 dBm, unlike an IF/filter receiver (either analogue like the K2 or DSP like the K3/K3S)."

2018 Contest University

Presentations from the 2018 Contest University are now available, courtesy of Teri, K8MNJ, Icom America and the CTU Professors www.contestuniversity.com/files/. Video of some of 2018's presentations are also available, thanks to Mary, KC1CWF www.contestuniversity.com/videos/.

Rule changes for 2018 CQ WW

Rule changes for the 2018 CQ WW Contests have been outlined by John, K1AR, in a CQ WW blog entry http://cqww.com/blog/. Included are changes in the impact of certain penalties, as well as an emphasis on log submission via web form versus email.
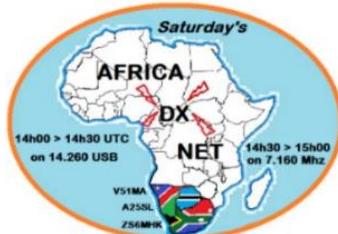
Solar Events

Archaeologists have found that evidence of extreme solar events that occurred in pre-historic times may be recorded in individual tree rings. By using carbon dating techniques, event dates can be narrowed to within 50 to 100 years. www.theguardian.com/science/2016/aug/17/traces-of-sun-storms-locked-in-tree-rings-could-confirm-ancient-historical-dates-astrochronology

African DX

Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)

Botswana, A2. Andre, NJ0F has postponed his A25A operation, which was expected to take place on 13 to 20 July. The new dates will be announced as soon as decided.

The Kingdon of eSwatini, 3DA. 16 to 28 September are the dates for HA5AO's operation from Mbabane, eSwatini (Swaziland). In his free time Pista will be active as 3DA0AO on 80 to 10 metres CW, RTTY and FT8. A log search and OQRS will be available at www.ha5ao.com. His plans include testing a new feature of the PDXG QSL Management Platform, the uploading of QSOs in real time. QSL via OQRS (preferred), or via his home call. The complete log will be uploaded to LotW six months after the DXpedition.

While in-country he will travel to rural areas visiting villages, schools and orphanages to deliver school supplies. He is interested in making a long term donation agreement to pay school fees for several orphaned children. Pista is paying all expenses from personal funds. Any donations received through his website will be used only for humanitarian purposes.

Rwanda, 9X. The Italian DXpedition Team, who will be active from Rwanda on 26 September to 10 October has added a second call sign. They will use 9X0Y exclusively on FT8 DXpedition mode (7 056, 10 131, 14 090, 18 095, 21 091, 24 911 and 28 091 kHz) and 9X0T everywhere else. See www.i2ysb.com/idt/ for detailed instructions.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Robben Island, ZS. A group of 6 operators will be active as ZS9V from Robben Island (AF-064 Western Cape Province South West Group) from 17 to 20 August including the Lighthouse Weekend - Robben Island lighthouse is ZA0008 and the island is ZSFF-0322 for the Fauna and Flora programme.

Operators mentioned are Jan, ZS1VDV, Andre, ZS1AN, Johan, ZS1A, Allan ZS1LS, Oleg ZS1OIN and Oleg, ZS1ANF. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and possible the digital modes. QSL via M0OXO or OQRS. For more details, see http://zs9v.org.za

Word to the Wise

CWAC - Contest Within A Contest. A contest that takes place during an existing contest and may use different rules or operating categories that are of significance to the participants. Examples include the WRTC event that occurs during the IARU HF World Championship Contest, certain contest clubs' intra-member competitions, or even special awards sponsored by clubs or individuals on a whim http://lists.contesting.com/_top-band/2017-12/msg00072.html.

A Look at Radio Sport

"Contest Video Essay - A Look at Radiosport" by K4ZA features many well-known contesters. It was originally produced with a grant from the Yasme Foundation www.yasme.org/ and has been placed on YouTube with permission https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuIuPYrDoXRPMRDqOD7Svb0Dmw6ny6Yf8. Ward, N0AX, describes it this way, "With many perspectives and plenty of variety, it's kind of like mini-ham-radio-TED-talks." Thanks go to Yasme and Bob, N6TV, for making this available.

Software Defined Radio for Engineers

Analog devices has released a downloadable book, *Software Defined Radio for Engineers*, focusing on, well, SDRs http://www.analog.com/media/en/training-seminars/design-handbooks/Software-Defined-Radio-for-Engineers-2018/SDR4Engineers.pdf. This 375 page tome covers theory as well as practice. Examples can be used with AD's ADALM-PLUTO SDR and simulated with MATLAB www.mathworks.com/products/matlab.html.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 16 to 23 July 2018

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 16 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 22 July 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/autolog.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 18 July
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 20 July 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 18 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 19 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 21 July 2018
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

NAQCC CW Sprint
00:30 UTC-02:30 UTC 19 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once; Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1.5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 22 July 2018
E-mail logs to: naqcc33@windstream.net and/or jcoreyc@gmail.com
Upload log at: http://naqcc.info/sprint_submit_log.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201807.html

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 20 July
Geographic Focus: United States
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 21 July 2018
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 20 July
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 22 July 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 July
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: July 22, 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

Russian Radio Team Championship
07:00 - 14:59 UTC 21 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed - low or high;
Multi-Op
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: RRTC: RS(T) and 3-character code; Non-RRTC: RS(T) and ITU Zone no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with RRTC stations; 2 points per QSO with non-RRTC station in same zone; 3 points per QSO with different zone
Multipliers: Each ITU zone once per band; Each RRTC 3-character code once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 19:00 UTC 21 July 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/en/sub-mit_log.php?lang=en
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://news.srr.ru/chempionat-rossii-po-radiosvyazi-na-kv-rrtc/

Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge
08:00 - 14:00 UTC 21 July
Geographic Focus: Australia/New Zealand
Participation: Australia/New Zealand
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RS(T) and serial no
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 28 July 2018
E-mail logs to: vk4sn@wia.org.au
Upload log at: https://contester.azurewebsites.net/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.wia.org.au/members/con-tests/transtasman/

Jakarta 40 m DX Contest
10:00 - 22:00 UTC 21 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: SSB

Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op
Exchange: RS and serial no
QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with same continent; 5 points per QSO with different continent; 50 points per QSO with YB station
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once; Each prefix once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 28 July 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: https://jakartadxcontest.com/logs/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://jakartadxcon-test.com/rules/rules-english/

DMC RTTY Contest
12:00 UTC 21 July to 12:00 UTC 22 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Single Op 12-Hr - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; SWL
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 10 watts
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each prefix once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 22 August 2018
E-mail logs to: rtty2018@digital-modes-club.org
Mail logs to: DMC Contest Committee, C/o Andreas Lukasczyk, Am Hochhaus 61, 04552 Borna, Germany
Find rules at: http://digital-modes-club.org/in-dex.php/en/dmc-rtty-contest

Feld Hell Sprint
12:00 – 13:59 UTC 21 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: Feld Hell
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 25 July 2018
Upload log at: https://sites.google.com/site/feld-hellclub/

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://sites.google.com/site/feldhell-club/Home/contests/sprints/early-bird-sprint

North American RTTY QSO Party
18:00 UTC 21 July to 05:59 UTC 22 July
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: North America
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op – QRP or low; Multi-Two - low
Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours
Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, DC, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state/DC (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 05:59 UTC 27 July 2018
Upload log at: www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit/
Mail logs to: Mark Aaker, K6UFO, 300 Berry St., Unit 1009, San Francisco, CA 94158-1668, USA
Find rules at: www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf

SA Sprint Contest
21:00 - 22:59 UTC 21 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed - low or high; Novice; YL
Multi-Op - low or high
Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W
Exchange: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each SA prefix once; Each DXCC country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 28 July 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://sa-sprint.com/submit-log/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://sa-sprint.com/rules/

RSGB Low Power Contest
09:00 - 12:00 UTC and 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 22 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op - fixed or portable 10 W; Single Op - fixed or portable 3 W; Multi-Op - fixed or portable 10 W; Multi-Op - fixed or portable 3 W
Exchange: RST, serial no and power
QSO Points: 15 points per QSO with QRP portable/mobile station; 10 points per QSO with QRP fixed station; 5 points per QSO with non-QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 23 July 2018
Upload log at: www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2018/rqrp.shtml

CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush
20:00 - 21:59 UTC 22 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and state, province or country
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 5 points for QSO with W0CQC or N0CQC
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 21 August 2018
E-mail logs to: vkumagai@q.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.coloradoqrpclub.org/contests/gold.htm

WRTC 2018 teams produce amazing contact totals despite poor conditions

A crack team of contesters from Lithuania has won the gold medal in World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 (WRTC 2018 www.wrtc2018.de/), held over the weekend in Germany.

Operating as Y81N, Gedas Lucinskas, LY9A, and Mindis Jukna, LY4L, topped the real-time scoreboard for much of the event, which is held as a competition within a contest in conjunction with the IARU HF Championship. Lucinskas and Jukna had ended up in sixth place during WRTC 2014, held in New England. They posted a final score of 5 690 685 points, logging 5 139 contacts, with a heavy emphasis on CW. Conditions during the weekend competition were mediocre at best.

Taking second place to the pleasure of the German sponsors was the Y81A team of Manfred Wolf, DJ5MW, and Stefan von Baltz, DL1IAO, with 5 273 488 points, with 4 936 contacts, a majority on CW. They placed third in a nail-biting finale for the bronze at WRTC 2014. The mostly German audience gave Wolf and Baltz a huge ovation.

In the third spot this time around was the WRTC 2014 defending champion team of Dan Craig, N6MJ, and Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, who operated as Y82V, and racked up a final tally of 4 891 710 points, heavily weighted toward CW.

The WRTC 2014 second-place team of Rastislav Hrnko, OM3BH, and Jozef Lang, OM3GI, from the Slovak Republic landed in 10th place at WRTC 2018.

This year's first-place team scored nearly 1,5 million fewer points but 567 more contacts than the WRTC 2014 first-place team of N6MJ and KL9A. Overall, the competitors logged more than 300 000 contacts during the 24-hour event.

"The excitement of the competitors is at least as high as that of the spectators watching the [Live] Scoreboard," WRTC 2018 said as the event was starting to wind down. "But what distinguishes viewers from contesters is that the spectators can see the current position of all of the stations - the contest teams do not."

Determining the results of WRTC 2018 involved an extensive log-checking process, based in part on comparisons between IARU HF Contest logs submitted to WRTC 2018 for that purpose. Results for all competing teams have been posted on the WRTC 2018 website http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/.

The father-son Y87B team of Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, and Patrick Briggs, KK6ZM, won the SSB Leader Award. The CW leaders, operating as Y83O, were Tonno Vahk, ES5TV, and Toivo Hallikivi, ES2RR, of Estonia. Claiming the award for the most accurate log - which was said to be very close - was the Y86V team of Leo Slavov, OR2F, and Pascal Lierman, ON5RA, of Belgium. They made 39 logging errors.

Youth Team Award winners were Alexandru Mancas, YO8TTT, and Leo Kharchenko, UT5GW, who landed in 14th place overall. There were three youth teams for competitors aged 25 or younger. The youngest WRTC 2018 competitor was 14.

WRTC 2022 will take place in Bologna, Italy, as announced at the closing ceremony.
The report from the ARRL

Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 July
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 25 July
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 26 July
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 26 July
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 27 July
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 27 July
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 July
RSGB IOTA Contest, 12:00 UTC 28 July to 12:00 UTC 29 July
YARC Summer QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 28 July to 21:59 UTC 29 July
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 29 July
ARS Flight of the Bumblebees, 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 29 July

Southern African Fauna and Flora https://zsfaunaandflora.wordpress.com/

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter

https://youtu.be/6Wn75tzngPk